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SOUTHERN NEWS.

The Richmond Whig says: "Messrs. Lee & Mallory, the lessees of the Metropolitan Hall, have established a depot at the hall for the distribution of 2,400 loaves of bread per month to the needy families of soldiers in the field.—The ladies of the Benevolent Society superintend the distribution, which will take place on Tuesday and Friday of each week, the beneficiaries being furnished with tickets for the bread."

Gen. Toombs has resigned his position in the Southern army, and he says he cannot longer hold a commission with advantage to the country, or honor to himself.

The Vicksburg Whig says the transport steamers E. J. Gay and Thirty-fifth Parallel had been burned by order of Gen. Loring, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Federal troops. They were employed on the Yazoo river.

The Legislature of Louisiana is to meet in extra session on the 4th of May.

The wheat crop in Georgia is represented as promising an abundant harvest.

Gen. Pillow is spoken of for Governor of Tennessee.

The number of married men of Georgia who have died in the service of the State and Confederacy, leaving widows yet living, is 3,618.

At Mobile beef is selling at 75 cents to \$1 per pound, potatoes \$20 per barrel, flour \$80 per barrel, molasses \$5 a gallon, and butter \$2 per pound.

W. C. Rives, Wm. L. Goggin, Wm. Smith, James Lyons, Col. Flournoy, and others, are named for Governor of Virginia.

The Richmond Whig complains of depredations committed by Confederate soldiers when the Federal troops retreated from Yorktown, and after the evacuation of Fredericksburg.

The stock of wines belonging to the estate of the late ex-President Tyler, sold in Richmond, at auction, at prodigious prices.

Ninety-nine of the Federal cavalry, recently captured at Dranesville, have arrived in Richmond.

A late number of the Mississippian says:—"It is understood that Mr. DeBew, the Confederate States agent, has negotiated the purchase of between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and seventy-five thousand bales of cotton in Louisiana and Mississippi, at an average of about twelve cents."

The New Orleans Era publishes full details of the capture of the U. S. steamer Diana by the Confederates, in the Atchafalaya river, near Pattersonville, La., on the 28th ult.

The Richmond Whig says: "We observe that gentlemen, both in and out of the House of Representatives, are announcing themselves candidates for the next House, from this State. Mr. Chambliss, of the Norfolk district, declines a re-election. Ex-Governor Smith, of the Fauquier district, has announced himself a candidate for the Governorship, and may be therefore be considered out of the field for Congress. Mr. Holcombe, of Albemarle, it is understood, designs retiring from political life. In several of the districts competing candidates have declared themselves, and it is probable that in most or all of them there will be a contest. As the law now stands, the election will be held on the fourth Thursday in May, but it is not unlikely that Congress may pass a law changing both the time and the character of

the election. A bill has been reported in the House of Representatives, providing for an election (whether in all the States, or only in those partially or wholly in the hands of the enemy, we are not advised) by general ticket. This is the old way."

The Richmond City Council, on Thursday last, adopted a resolution directing the Committee on Police to inquire into the expediency of reporting an ordinance empowering the Mayor, for sufficient cause, to have before him any persons who may have only been a resident for the past twelve months, and cause them to give bonds, with sufficient security, conditioned for their good behaviour during their stay.

The small pox has almost disappeared at Richmond, and the "camp itch" has taken its place.

The Confederate Senate has passed a bill to authorize the transmission of newspapers to soldiers in the army free of postage, and came near passing a bill allowing rations of tobacco to the soldiers. The House bill to abolish flogging in the army was not taken up.

WAR NEWS.

Reports are received at Hilton Head that the Confederates threaten to attack the Federal forces remaining there.

The latest advices from Washington, N. C., are to the 6th instant, when it was rumored at Newbern that Gen. Foster had surrendered.—Heavy firing was heard in the direction of Washington on Sunday, and it was renewed on Monday morning, indicating that a battle was in progress.

A Baton Rouge letter of the 30th ultimo states that Gen. Banks has issued an order for all the forces under his command to be in readiness to move at short notice. This movement it is supposed to be against Port Hudson. The Confederates are reported to have eighty thousand men at that point. Southern papers report that Gen. Banks, at the head of ten thousand men, was at Donaldsonville, on the 1st instant, moving to reinforce General Wietzell, in the Bayou Teche country.

The Confederates recently captured and burned two Federal transports on the Tennessee river. Scouting expeditions in Tennessee report the capture of two hundred Confederates and a large number of horses, forage and subsistence.

Confederate accounts confirm the reported repulse of Gen. Morgan, at Liberty, Tenn., on Friday last, but claim that he held his position at Snow Hill until the Federal forces in turn fell back. They also report that a Federal force, fifteen thousand strong, is moving on Columbia, and a battle was imminent.

A dispatch from the vicinity of Vicksburg, dated the 2d inst., states that there is no prospect of active operations before Vicksburg for some time. A new canal is being cut eight miles above Young's Point. Gen. Grant is reconnoitering up the Yazoo, at the head of a considerable force.

A letter from Port Royal, S. C., of March 28th says that an order has been sent by Gen. Hunter to withdraw the troops from Brunswick and Fernandina. It also states that a tremendous explosion took place in the harbor of Charleston a few days ago, causing a jarring sensation to the entire blockading squadron six miles distant. It is supposed to have been a premature explosion of a submarine mine or torpedo.

All the parties recently arrested for the robbery of Adams' Express are residents of Baltimore.

DEFERRED ITEMS.

Gen. Turchin, who was some time ago retired from active service for alleged ill conduct in Northern Alabama, has been ordered to report to Gen. Rosecrans for duty.

The Syracuse Standard, of Monday, announces the arrival in that city of Mrs. Long, daughter of the late Gen. Sumner, and wife of Col. Long of the Confederate army.

The combined radical and conservative vote in the city of St. Louis at the recent municipal election shows a majority exceeding five thousand over the Democratic vote.

Gen. Hurlbut, commanding at Memphis, has expelled ten Secession families beyond the Federal lines, in retaliation for the recent attack on a railroad train, near Moscow, by guerillas.

The British steamer Dolphin, a blockade-runner, has been captured by the United States gunboat Wachusett, off Porto Rico, and sent to Key West.

Within a day or two past Colonel Fish, military provost marshal in Baltimore, has issued orders to the proprietors of Barnum's and Mann's Hotels, and to the Corn Exchange Company to put up new flags in the places of the "tattered and disgraceful apologies for national emblems." The order in each case was at once complied with.

Among those who united with Rev. Dr. Adams's church, (Pres.) N. Y., last Sunday, were General McClellan, and Mrs. Marcy and daughter, the latter the General's mother-in-law, and sister-in-law, who joined by letter—the former by profession. The scene was witnessed by a large and deeply interested congregation.

Many of the Northern papers censure in the strongest terms the recent proceedings in Florida, and especially the destruction of Jacksonville. Calls are made for an investigation.—The correspondent of the N. Y. Post affirms that "if Gen. Hunter had desired to do the State of Florida and the cause of freedom and Union in the South the greatest injury—if he wished to paralyze the patriotism and destroy the loyalty of this people, and blight the hopes of the State, he could not have adopted a course more certain of success than the one he has adopted from the first in regard to the State."

The New York Post says, that Charleston will be attacked the moment Admiral Dupont's preparations are completed—and not a moment before. The excitement of the public mind by rumors and exaggerations is useless, and can do no good. The attack is likely to be an affair of some days. No decisive result is looked for on the first day; it may even be that in the first week of what, at this distance, looks like active operations, nothing of real moment will be accomplished.

A court martial, recently convicted Lieut. John P. Cole, of the 144th N. Y. Volunteers, of desertion, and sentenced him to be shot.—Major Gen. Heintzelman, however, has commuted the sentence to dismissal from the service, "for the sake of the family of the prisoner, rather than for himself."

The Baltimore American calls for "another head in command at Vicksburg."